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DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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April Jobless Rates Fall Seasonally in All of Michigan's Regional Labor Markets

Lansing – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates declined in all of Michigan's 17 major labor market areas in April, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment levels rose in most regions in April, while labor force levels were down slightly in the majority of areas.

"Michigan's local labor markets recorded typical patterns in April with seasonal hiring throughout most of the state," said Rick Waclawek, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "Over the past year, nearly all of the state's regions have shown an improved labor market environment."

From March to April, seasonal unemployment rate reductions ranged from 0.5 to 2.1 percentage points with a significant median decline of a full percentage point. The largest rate cuts were posted in the state's three northernmost labor market areas as hiring began for the upcoming summer tourism season. In April, eight of the state's metropolitan regions displayed unemployment rates at or below the national seasonally unadjusted rate of 7.7 percent.

Jobless Rates Down Over Year

From April 2011 to April 2012, unemployment rates fell in all 17 of Michigan's major labor market areas. Over-the-year rate reductions ranged from 1.1 to 2.4 percentage points with a median decline of 1.8 percentage points. The largest over-the-year jobless rate cuts occurred in the Detroit-Warren-Livonia, Flint, and Jackson Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), along with the Northwest Lower Michigan region. Unemployment rates in these areas dropped by at least 2.0 percentage points over this period.

Total Employment Up Over Month, Year

Over the month, total employment advanced in 15 regions, with a median gain of 1.0 percent. The largest percentage increases were posted in the Northeast Lower Michigan region and the Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSA. Employment declined in April in the Muskegon-Norton Shores and Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSAs.

Since April 2011, total employment rose in all 17 regions, with an average gain of over 2.0 percent. The Holland-Grand Haven, Flint, Bay City, and Jackson MSAs showed the most pronounced employment percentage increases over the year.

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Labor Force Levels Down Over Month, Up Over Year

In April, workforce levels fell slightly in 13 regions, with a median decline of 0.5 percent. Four regions posted minor labor force gains in April of 0.4 percent or less. Between April 2011 and April 2012, labor force levels rose in 11 regions and decreased in six.

Seasonal Gains in April Payroll Jobs

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan increased by 43,000 or 1.1 percent in April to 3,976,000. Payroll jobs rose over the month in professional and business services (+14,000), leisure and hospitality services (+11,000), construction (+8,000), and trade, transportation and utilities (+7,000). The financial activities sector added 3,000 jobs in April, while manufacturing recorded a 3,000 reduction. The state's remaining sectors were mostly steady over the month.

Payroll jobs increased in 13 of the state's 14 metropolitan areas in April, with the largest percentage gains posted in the Monroe, Saginaw-Saginaw Township North, and Kalamazoo-Portage MSAs. Payroll jobs declined moderately over the month in the Muskegon-Norton Shores MSA.

From April 2011 to April 2012, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs rose statewide by 53,000 or 1.3 percent. Over-the-year job advances were recorded throughout most industry sectors and were led by gains in professional and business services (+24,000), manufacturing (+17,000), education and health services (+14,000), and financial activities (+5,000). Notable over-the-year job losses were confined to government (-11,000) and retail trade (-5,000).

Since April 2011, 11 of Michigan's 14 major metropolitan regions recorded payroll job gains. The largest percentage increases were posted in the Holland-Grand Haven, Bay City, and Jackson MSAs. Payroll jobs fell slightly over the year in the Muskegon-Norton Shores, Monroe, and Battle Creek MSAs. Professional and business services and education and health services jobs were up over the year in most of the state's metropolitan regions.

County Jobless Rates Down Over Month, Year

All of Michigan's 83 counties recorded seasonal unemployment rate declines in April, with a significant median reduction of 1.5 percentage points. A good portion of the largest rate drops occurred in Michigan's northern counties. In April, 53 counties in the state reported jobless rates below 10.0 percent.

From April 2011 to April 2012, unemployment rates fell in all Michigan counties. The median rate drop over the year was 1.9 percentage points.

*Note: Data in this release is **not seasonally adjusted**. As a result, employment and unemployment trends may differ from previously released Michigan seasonally adjusted data.*

A breakdown of seasonally unadjusted April workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for April.

Note to Editors: Please ensure that the source for state unemployment rates reads "Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget."

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	<u>Apr-11</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	% change month	% change year
ANN ARBOR MSA (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	179,700	184,100	183,900	-0.1%	2.3%
Total Employment	168,600	173,900	174,700	0.5%	3.6%
Unemployment	11,000	10,200	9,200	-9.8%	-16.4%
Rate (percent)	6.1	5.5	5.0		

Contact: Mark Reffitt, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 492-5550

	<u>Apr-11</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	% change month	% change year
BATTLE CREEK MSA (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	64,500	64,600	64,300	-0.5%	-0.3%
Total Employment	58,900	59,800	60,000	0.3%	1.9%
Unemployment	5,600	4,800	4,300	-10.4%	-23.2%
Rate (percent)	8.7	7.5	6.8		

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 841-5634

	<u>Apr-11</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	% change month	% change year
BAY CITY MSA (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	51,000	52,000	51,900	-0.2%	1.8%
Total Employment	46,000	47,300	47,800	1.1%	3.9%
Unemployment	5,000	4,800	4,100	-14.6%	-18.0%
Rate (percent)	9.8	9.2	8.0		

Contact: Rhea Acuna, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (989) 776-1508

	<u>Apr-11</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	% change month	% change year
DETROIT-WARREN-LIVONIA MSA (Data in thousands) (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	1,992	1,988	1,948	-2.0%	-2.2%
Total Employment	1,770	1,798	1,778	-1.1%	0.5%
Unemployment	221	190	170	-10.5%	-23.1%
Rate (percent)	11.1	9.6	8.7		

Contact: Jim Rhein, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3095

	<u>Apr-11</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	% change month	% change year
FLINT MSA (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	182,800	186,700	185,800	-0.5%	1.6%
Total Employment	163,100	168,800	169,900	0.7%	4.2%
Unemployment	19,700	17,800	15,900	-10.7%	-19.3%
Rate (percent)	10.8	9.6	8.6		

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(more)

	<u>Apr-11</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	% change month	% change year
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA					
(Barry, Ionia, Kent, Newaygo counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	378,300	382,300	382,600	0.1%	1.1%
Total Employment	347,800	354,700	358,600	1.1%	3.1%
Unemployment	30,500	27,600	24,000	-13.0%	-21.3%
Rate (percent)	8.1	7.2	6.3		

Contact: Jason Palmer, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 335-5267

	<u>Apr-11</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	% change month	% change year
HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA					
(Ottawa County)					
Civilian Labor Force	126,500	131,700	131,600	-0.1%	4.0%
Total Employment	116,300	122,400	123,600	1.0%	6.3%
Unemployment	10,200	9,300	8,000	-14.0%	-21.6%
Rate (percent)	8.0	7.1	6.1		

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	<u>Apr-11</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	% change month	% change year
JACKSON MSA					
(Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	70,600	71,900	71,700	-0.3%	1.6%
Total Employment	63,700	65,700	66,200	0.8%	3.9%
Unemployment	6,800	6,200	5,500	-11.3%	-19.1%
Rate (percent)	9.7	8.6	7.7		

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	<u>Apr-11</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	% change month	% change year
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA					
(Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	160,000	162,000	162,700	0.4%	1.7%
Total Employment	146,400	149,400	151,700	1.5%	3.6%
Unemployment	13,600	12,600	11,000	-12.7%	-19.1%
Rate (percent)	8.5	7.8	6.8		

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	<u>Apr-11</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	% change month	% change year
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA					
(Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	235,000	237,300	236,600	-0.3%	0.7%
Total Employment	216,800	220,200	221,500	0.6%	2.2%
Unemployment	18,200	17,100	15,100	-11.7%	-17.0%
Rate (percent)	7.8	7.2	6.4		

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(more)

	<u>Apr-11</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	% change month	% change year
MONROE MSA (Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	68,600	67,600	67,900	0.4%	-1.0%
Total Employment	62,100	61,900	62,800	1.5%	1.1%
Unemployment	6,500	5,700	5,200	-8.8%	-20.0%
Rate (percent)	9.5	8.4	7.6		

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	<u>Apr-11</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	% change month	% change year
MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA (Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	80,600	82,600	80,900	-2.1%	0.4%
Total Employment	72,600	75,100	74,200	-1.2%	2.2%
Unemployment	8,000	7,500	6,700	-10.7%	-16.3%
Rate (percent)	10.0	9.1	8.3		

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NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA (Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	71,600	72,600	72,100	-0.7%	0.7%
Total Employment	64,500	65,900	66,200	0.5%	2.6%
Unemployment	7,100	6,700	5,900	-11.9%	-16.9%
Rate (percent)	10.0	9.3	8.2		

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	<u>Apr-11</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	% change month	% change year
SAGINAW-Saginaw Township North MSA (Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	89,500	89,900	90,300	0.4%	0.9%
Total Employment	81,100	81,700	83,000	1.6%	2.3%
Unemployment	8,400	8,100	7,200	-11.1%	-14.3%
Rate (percent)	9.4	9.1	8.0		

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	<u>Apr-11</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	% change month	% change year
UPPER PENINSULA LMA (15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	144,900	146,000	144,800	-0.8%	-0.1%
Total Employment	129,300	130,900	131,800	0.7%	1.9%
Unemployment	15,600	15,000	13,000	-13.3%	-16.7%
Rate (percent)	10.8	10.3	9.0		

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(more)

	<u>Apr-11</u>	<u>Mar-12</u>	<u>Apr-12</u>	% change month	% change year
NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN (Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	83,800	82,800	82,500	-0.4%	-1.6%
Total Employment	72,800	71,700	73,200	2.1%	0.5%
Unemployment	11,100	11,100	9,300	-16.2%	-16.2%
Rate (percent)	13.2	13.4	11.3		

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NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN (Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	139,400	138,500	137,700	-0.6%	-1.2%
Total Employment	122,900	122,800	124,400	1.3%	1.2%
Unemployment	16,500	15,700	13,300	-15.3%	-19.4%
Rate (percent)	11.9	11.4	9.7		

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MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)					
Civilian Labor Force	4,608	4,632	4,585	-1.0%	-0.5%
Total Employment	4,143	4,215	4,216	0.0%	1.8%
Unemployment	465	417	368	-11.8%	-20.9%
Rate (percent)	10.1	9.0	8.0		

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Note:

The table above contains **seasonally unadjusted** data for Michigan for 2012 and 2011, which should be used in comparison with data for Michigan regions or counties.

DTMB released earlier the **seasonally adjusted** April 2012 unemployment rate for Michigan (8.3 percent), which is best used for:

- Identifying recent Michigan workforce trends
- Conducting comparisons with unemployment rates for the U.S. and other states

(more)

MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE APRIL 2012

1	Washtenaw County	5.0	43	Alpena County	8.9
2	Clinton County	5.4	44	Iron County	9.2
3	Barry County	5.8	45	Osceola County	9.4
4	Eaton County	6.0	46	Tuscola County	9.5
5	Isabella County	6.1	47	Kalkaska County	9.7
6	Kent County	6.1	48	Lapeer County	9.8
7	Ottawa County	6.1	49	Ogemaw County	9.8
8	Kalamazoo County	6.2	50	Sanilac County	9.8
9	Cass County	6.3	51	Wayne County	9.8
10	Midland County	6.5	52	Crawford County	9.9
11	Calhoun County	6.8	53	Manistee County	9.9
12	Ingham County	6.8	54	Benzie County	10.2
13	Allegan County	6.9	55	Chippewa County	10.2
14	Livingston County	7.0	56	Montcalm County	10.2
15	Menominee County	7.0	57	St. Clair County	10.2
16	Marquette County	7.2	58	Luce County	10.4
17	Dickinson County	7.3	59	Missaukee County	10.5
18	Leelanau County	7.4	60	Gogebic County	10.7
19	Oakland County	7.4	61	Charlevoix County	10.8
20	Branch County	7.6	62	Roscommon County	10.8
21	Monroe County	7.6	63	Oceana County	10.9
22	Jackson County	7.7	64	Wexford County	10.9
23	St. Joseph County	7.7	65	Antrim County	11.0
24	Grand Traverse County	7.8	66	Clare County	11.0
25	Ionia County	7.9	67	Arenac County	11.2
26	Bay County	8.0	68	Lake County	11.2
27	Huron County	8.0	69	Otsego County	11.3
28	Newaygo County	8.0	70	Iosco County	11.4
29	Saginaw County	8.0	71	Alcona County	11.6
30	Berrien County	8.2	72	Alger County	11.6
31	Lenawee County	8.2	73	Schoolcraft County	11.7
32	Muskegon County	8.3	74	Gladwin County	11.8
33	Mecosta County	8.4	75	Cheboygan County	12.5
34	Delta County	8.5	76	Emmet County	12.5
35	Gratiot County	8.5	77	Keweenaw County	12.9
36	Genesee County	8.6	78	Ontonagon County	13.9
37	Hillsdale County	8.6	79	Oscoda County	13.9
38	Houghton County	8.6	80	Mackinac County	14.1
39	Macomb County	8.6	81	Presque Isle County	15.1
40	Shiawassee County	8.6	82	Montmorency County	15.3
41	Mason County	8.7	83	Baraga County	16.3
42	Van Buren County	8.8			

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